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68TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
No. 1129

WITHDRAWAL OF CERTAIN LANDS IN NEVADA FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF INDIANS OF WALKER RIVER RESERVATION

FEBRUARY 16, 1925.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HARRELD, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the
following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 10025]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10025) to provide for the permanent withdrawal of certain described lands in the State of Nevada for the use and benefit of the Indians of the Walker River Reservation, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass without amendment.

The facts are fully set forth in House Report No. 1248, Sixty-eighth Congress, second session, which is appended hereto and made a part of this report.

[House Report No. 1248, Sixty-eighth Congress, second session]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10025) to provide for the permanent withdrawal of certain described lands in the State of Nevada for the use and benefit of the Indians of the Walker River Reservation, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass with the following amendment:

Amend, on page 3, line 5, by inserting the following proviso:

"*Provided*, That the foregoing reservation is hereby created subject to exploration, location, and entry under the existing mining laws of the United States."

The necessity for this legislation is explained in the following letter addressed to the chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs by the Secretary of the Interior:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, December 1, 1924.

HON. HOMER P. SNYDER,
*Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs,
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. SNYDER: On June 27, 1924, the President by Executive order directed the temporary withdrawal from settlement, entry, sale, or other disposition until March 5, 1925, approximately three townships of public land in the State of Nevada, for the use and benefit of the Indians of the Walker River Reservation.

By the terms of this order, if legislation is not enacted before March 5, 1925, to withdraw these lands permanently, and no other direction is given regarding the disposition of such lands, they will on that date become subject to disposal under any law then applicable. The order further provides that the temporary withdrawal therein authorized shall not affect any existing legal right of any person to any of the lands described therein.

The act of June 30, 1919 (41 Stat. L. 3-34), prohibits the withdrawal of public lands for or as an Indian reservation, except by act of Congress. Hence it becomes necessary to obtain the authority of Congress for the permanent withdrawal of the lands described in the order for the use and benefit of the Walker River Indians. The Walker River Reservation originally contained more than 250,000 acres. This area has been reduced by reason of individual allotments to the Indians and the opening of a part of the reservation to settlement. The surplus area now embraces approximately 110,000 acres, including 34,000 acres added to the reserve for grazing purposes by Executive order of March 15, 1918.

It is reported that the grazing area available for the use of these Indians is not sufficient to accommodate their increasing herds, and the additional land desired lies adjacent to the present reservation. In view of this situation it is recommended that the inclosed draft of a bill or legislation similar thereto be given favorable consideration by your committee and the Congress during the present session, in order that the lands may be permanently withdrawn for the use and benefit of the Walker River Indians.

Very truly yours,

HUBERT WORK.

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